Editor's note

This double issue of the *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Newsletter* records the history and achievements of United Nations involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice up to the date of the adoption, by the Economic and Social Council, of resolution 1992/1 in February 1992 by which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established. It also traces the reform process that led to the establishment of the Commission.

Since the United Nations was formed following the Second World War, the control and prevention of crime has been an area of its concern. Over the years, the scope of this programme has developed considerably, reflecting the growing awareness of Member States of the structural and sociological causes of crime and the need for measures to alleviate the economic and social conditions that foster criminal behaviour, as well as the need for more effective strategies for incorporating planning for crime prevention and criminal justice within overall social and economic development planning.

A further factor that has led to a growth in the programme, and indeed, in greater reliance being placed on it by the international community, is the phenomenon of the "internationalization" of crime, particularly organized crime.

These factors, and many more, led to the intensive review process of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The next double issue will cover the first two sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and indicate the new directions of the programme, emphasizing particularly technical cooperation projects, advisory services, data gathering and information exchange.

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Work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice

In February 1992, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1992/1, concluded an era in the work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice, and initiated a fresh one. That resolution dissolved the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, composed of experts serving in their individual capacities, and established the new intergovernmental Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which has held two sessions, in April 1992 and in April 1993.

Brief history of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

In order to understand the history and development of United Nations involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice, it is necessary to be aware of the basic structure of the United Nations system, how it functions and how it is governed. There are six principal organs of the United Nations: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. In addition, there are specialized agencies and other autonomous organizations, the work of which is coordinated by the Economic and Social Council (see figure 1 on page 3).

The work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice is governed by the Economic and Social Council and, ultimately, by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly may discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the Charter of the United Nations or relating to the powers and functions of any organ provided for in the Charter. It may make recommendations to Member States or to the Security Council, or to both, on any such questions or matters except on disputes or situations that are under consideration by the Security Council.

The Economic and Social Council, the major legislative and policy-making organ of the United Nations after the General Assembly, makes or initiates studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters. It makes recommendations on such matters to the General Assembly, to Member States and to the specialized agencies concerned. It also makes recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights. It prepares draft conventions for submission to the Assembly on matters within its competence and convenes international conferences on such matters. It enters into agreements with specialized agencies and makes arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.

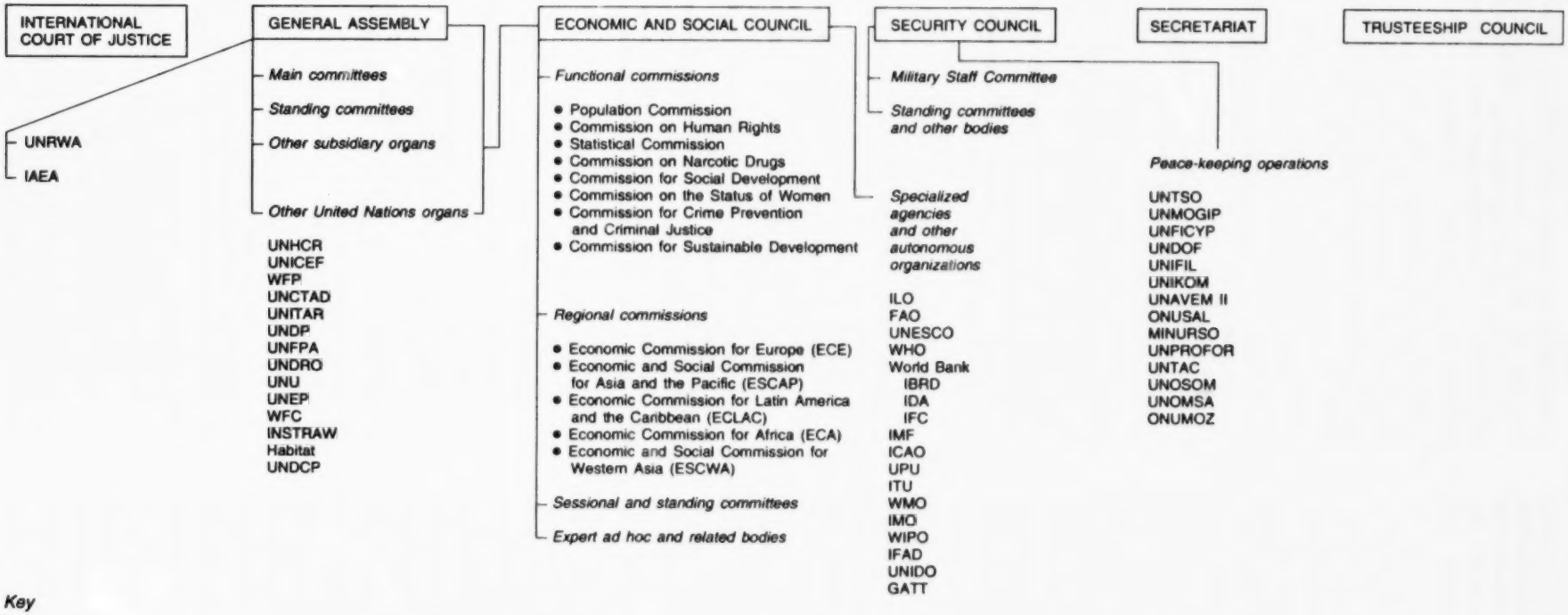
On 21 June 1946, the Economic and Social Council requested the Social Commission (the forerunner of the Commission for Social Development) to consider how effective machinery could be developed for studying, on a wide international basis, the means for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The Social Commission undertook consultations with the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (an intergovernmental organization established in 1875), to recommend a scheme by which work on this subject could be fruitfully dealt with in close association with other social problems. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the subject, showing which suggestions were suitable for international action and how they could best be carried out.

In 1948, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the opinion of the Social Commission that the United Nations should assume leadership in the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, having regard to and making the fullest use of the knowledge and experiences of international and national organizations that had interests and competence in the field. The rationale for conferring this role on the United Nations had its genesis in the Charter which, *inter alia*, states the aims of the Organization as safeguarding universal values, including the protection of life, health and security of the people of the world as well as "to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".

In 1950, the General Assembly approved plans for the transfer of the activities of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission to the United Nations, which was accomplished in 1951. At the same time, an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts, consisting of seven internationally recognized experts, was established to act as an advisory body to the Secretary-General and the Social Commission, and to assist in devising and formulating programmes and policies for international action in the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The group's membership was enlarged to 10 in July 1965 by the Economic and Social Council, which also changed the Group's name to the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. In 1971, the Advisory Committee was again enlarged, from 10 to 15 members by the Economic and Social Council, and renamed the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

Since then, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control has undergone various changes in membership, status and nature of responsibilities. By 1991, its membership numbered 27 experts, elected by the Economic and Social Council from among candidates nominated by Member States. The members of the Committee have shared between them a wide range of credentials and experience: prison administrators, goverment leaders of cabinet rank, judges and chief justices, lawyers, criminologists, sociologists and economists.

Figure I. Principal organs of the United Nations system



Key

United Nations organs

Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme

Specialized agencies

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

World Bank

IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation

Peace-keeping operations

MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
ONUMOZ	United Nations Operation in Mozambique
ONUSAL	United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador
UNAVEM II	United Nations Angola Verification Mission II
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
UNFICYP	United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNIKOM	United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNOMSA	United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa
UNOSOM	United Nations Operation in Somalia
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

In addition, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control was the preparatory body for the quinquennial United Nations congresses on crime prevention and the treatment of offenders. These intergovernmental congresses also deliberated on the work of the Committee and, until 1990, reported directly to the General Assembly.

Mechanisms of the programme

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch

United Nations activities in crime prevention and criminal justice are carried out through a number of mechanisms. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna, which the General Assembly has recommended be upgraded to a division, is the Secretariat unit charged with the formulation of policy options and the promotion and implementation of United Nations international instruments, resolutions and policies at the international level, as directed by its policy bodies. It works closely with officials of Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and through public information activities. It fosters the application of United Nations norms and instruments in national legislation, collects and analyses statistics, and conducts studies on various aspects of crime prevention and control and criminal justice administration. It organizes the quinquennial United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and their regional preparatory meetings, as well as various other expert group meetings on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

Staff members of the Branch coordinate crime prevention and criminal justice activities within the United Nations system, cooperating with other entities such as the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Office of Legal Affairs.

In addition, the Branch is the central repository of international technical expertise in matters of crime prevention and criminal justice, criminal law reform and criminological sciences. It bears the primary responsibility within the United Nations system for facilitating technical cooperation between countries in the criminal justice field and providing technical and advisory services. Direct services to requesting Governments are undertaken in the form of the provision of policy advice and the implementation and training of personnel, as well as in highly specific areas such as the introduction of juvenile courts, the creation of open penal institutions and probation. Another major function is the gathering, analysis and dissemination of data.

In 1970, the post of Interregional Adviser on crime prevention and criminal justice was established. Between 1982 and 1989, the Branch fielded over 100 requests from Member States for interregional advisory services. In 1991 and 1992, over 50 requests for the services of the Interregional Adviser were received and 32 missions undertaken. Advisory missions are provided in a wide range of areas, and have included those related to the establishment of national councils for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development issues; training in all aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice; juvenile delinquency prevention; alternatives to imprisonment; prevention of urban criminality; and improvements in the capacity of law enforcement agencies, including the judiciary, especially in order to combat various forms of organized criminality. Criminal justice statistics and legal informatics have also been prominent in many requests, and specific proposals have been formulated to respond to these needs.

Assistance in the following technical areas is provided by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to Member States on request, subject to the availability of resources:

Criminal law

- Codification and digests of existing legislation and jurisprudence
- Penal law reform
- Decriminalization and depenalization policies
- Classification of crimes and model codes
- Commercial crime, fraud and tax evasion
- Corruption, embezzlement and misconduct in office
- Organized crime, racketeering and smuggling
- Offences against public safety, cultural patrimony and the environment
- Criminal law procedures and the rights of the accused
- Alternatives to imprisonment
- Extradition and the treatment of foreign prisoners
- Bilateral treaties in criminal matters

Criminal justice management

- System analysis and organization and structure of justice agencies
- Computerization and management systems
- Allocation of human resources, training and development of human resources
- Research on interrelationships between socio-economic factors and crime
- Incorporation of crime prevention strategies in national, regional and urban development
- Status, selection and training of criminal justice personnel, including judges and prosecutors
- Improving the efficacy and fairness of judicial processes
- Facilitating access to justice and legal assistance for the poor
- Role of lawyers and public defenders

Criminal justice statistics

- Organization of data collection and record-keeping
- Computerization
- Crime trends and surveys; crime forecasting
- Personnel statistics and budget allocations
- Criminal records and management
- Judicial statistics and assignment of cases
- Prison population statistics
- Recidivism statistics

Law enforcement

- Codes of conduct and disciplinary codes
- Use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials
- Community support, role of the mass media and complaint procedures
- Policies on victims of crime and domestic violence
- Investigative techniques in connection with money-laundering and organized crime
- International cooperation to combat transnational offenders
- Seizure of assets derived from illegal activities
- Forensic training and the handling and transfer of evidence
- Arrest procedures and the protection of human rights

Rehabilitation of offenders

Alternatives to imprisonment
Probation, supervision programmes and after-care services
Programmes in correctional institutions: weekend imprisonment, semi-liberty, training programmes and supervised labour
Prisoners' rights and privileges, furloughs and ombudspersonnel
Treatment of women in prisons
Treatment of drug addicts in prisons
Treatment of mentally ill offenders
Treatment of prisoners with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
Evaluation of correctional programmes and recidivism
Long-term prisoners and ageing prison populations

Victims of crime

Policies, procedures and model laws designed to protect victims
Restitution and compensation programmes and financing schemes
Health, social and legal services for victims: child protection, shelters for battered women, rape crisis centres
Victim involvement in judicial proceedings; alternatives to the judicial process
Special police services and procedures for victims and training programmes
Reporting of victimization and victim studies
Compensation for victims of abuse of public and economic power

Juvenile justice

Age of criminal responsibility
Diversion and non-institutional treatment
Delinquency-prevention strategies
Mobilization of volunteers and other community services
Guiding principles in adjudication and disposition
Institutional treatment: minimum standards
Multisectoral and multi-agency rehabilitation programmes
Research and planning for policy formulation
Training of juvenile justice personnel

United Nations network of institutes

The Branch works in close cooperation with a network of institutes and other regional, affiliated and associate training and research institutes based in various parts of the world. These entities *inter alia* promote United Nations recommendations and policies, assist the Governments of their regions in the implementation of United Nations international standards and instruments, provide advisory opinions on policy matters, organize training courses, conduct research in the field of criminal justice, organize regional seminars and facilitate cooperation between the States of their regions and the United Nations.

The network, which is continually expanding, currently consists of, in order of creation: the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established in 1961 in Fuchu, Japan; the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), established in 1968 in Rome, Italy; the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNLAI), established in 1975 in San José, Costa Rica; the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), established in 1981 in Helsinki, Finland; and the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), established in 1989 in Kampala, Uganda. Associate members of the network are: the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; the Australian Institute of Criminology in Canberra, Australia; the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale) in Milan, Italy; and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy (see box I).

United Nations quinquennial congresses on crime prevention and the treatment of offenders

United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders have been organized every five years since 1955. The congresses are intergovernmental forums for the presentation of policies found useful by various countries and serve as a stimulus for work in the criminal justice field.

Eight United Nations congresses have been held so far in: Geneva (1955), London (1960), Stockholm (1965), Kyoto (1970), Geneva (1975), Caracas (1980), Milan (1985) and Havana (1990). The Ninth Congress will be held in 1995.

The First Congress, held at Geneva, Switzerland in 1955, was attended by participants representing 61 countries and territories. It adopted the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The Second Congress, held at London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in 1960, at which 70 countries were represented, discussed the prevention of juvenile delinquency, prison labour parole and after-care, and criminality resulting from social change and economic development. The Third Congress, held at Stockholm, Sweden, in 1965, at which 74 countries were represented, discussed crime and social change.

The theme of the Fourth Congress, held at Kyoto, Japan, in 1970, in which 85 countries participated, was "Crime and development". A number of the issues considered at the previous congresses were further developed, particularly the relationship between crime and social and economic development and the need to integrate crime prevention planning with developmental planning, as, for example, in urban planning and education. Studies on these matters have been important achievements of the congresses. Discussion also took place on public participation in crime prevention, the treatment of offenders and the role of research.

The Fifth Congress, held at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1975, saw a marked increase in participation, with representation from 101 countries. The Congress discussed such issues as changes in the form and dimensions of criminality, the role of criminal legislation, judicial procedures and other forms of social control, the role of the police, the treatment of offenders and the economic and social consequences of crime. The concept of crime as a business (including organized crime) was first discussed at the Fifth Congress, which emphasized the need to deal with the prevention and control of crime at both national

Box I. Network of United Nations interregional, regional, affiliated and associated institutes

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Mr. Ugo Leone
Director
UNICRI
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00186 Rome, Italy

Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Mr. Takashi Watanabe
Director
UNAFEI
1-26 Harumicho
Fuchu, Tokyo 183, Japan

Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Ms. Jacinta Balbela
Co-Director
UNLAI
Apartado 10071-1000
San José, Costa Rica

Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations

Mr. Seppo Leppa
Acting Director
HEUNI
P.O. Box 34
SF-00931 Helsinki, Finland

African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Mr. Eric Kibuka
Officer-in-Charge
UNAFRI
P.O. Box 10590
Kampala, Uganda

Arab Security Studies and Training Centre

Mr. Farouk Murad
President
Arab Security Studies and Training Centre
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Riyadh 11452, Saudi Arabia

Australian Institute of Criminology

Mr. Duncan Chappell
Director
Australian Institute of Criminology
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Woden, A.C.T. 2606, Australia

International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy

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Executive Director
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International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council

Mr. Adolfo Beria di Argentine
Chairman of the Board
ISPAC
Secretary-General
Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale
Palazzo communale delle scienze sociali
Piazza Castello 3, 1-20121 Milan, Italy

International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences

Mr. Cherif Bassiouni
President
International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences
Via S. Agati 12-96100 Siracusa, Italy

and transnational levels. It issued the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which was subsequently developed by the Commission on Human Rights into a Convention.

The Sixth Congress, held at Caracas, Venezuela in 1980, was attended by representatives from 101 States. It discussed a number of issues, including new trends in crime, crime prevention strategies, juvenile justice, abuse of power, correctional issues and human rights standards. It also discussed offences by officials, capital punishment, and the links between crime and social and economic development. The Sixth Congress adopted the Caracas Declaration, which recognized that any crime prevention programme must be based on the social, cultural, political and economic circumstances of each country and form part of the developmental planning process. A strong call was made for the strengthening of the United Nations programme in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Seventh Congress held at Milan, Italy, in 1985 was attended by respresentatives from 124 countries. It discussed new dimensions of criminality, criminal justice processes, victims, juvenile justice and human rights standards. The Seventh Congress was a turning point in the development of the United Nations programme in crime prevention and criminal justice in that it productively came to grips with practical crime prevention and criminal justice problems, and significantly widened the scope of the programme. It adopted the Milan Plan of Action; the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice; the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power; the Basic

Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; recommendations on the treatment of foreign prisoners, as well as the first model bilateral treaty, the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners.

The Milan Plan of Action recognized, in broad terms, the nature of the threat of crime against the international community and the need for strengthened international cooperation and sought a review of the United Nations criminal justice programme, with a view to setting priorites and ensuring a practical orientation. It recommended that priority be given to the strengthening of crime prevention mechanisms, research on the interrelationship between crime and specific aspects of development (e.g. urbanization), and measures against organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and other especially harmful forms of criminal activity.

A further call for the strengthening of the United Nations programme, and the resources allocated to it, was made.

The Eighth Congress, held at Havana, Cuba, in 1990, was attended by approximately 1,500 participants including representatives of 127 Governments. It discussed international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, alternatives to imprisonment, organized crime, terrorism, juvenile justice and human rights standards. In recognition of the need to develop enhanced international cooperation, particularly in the area of crime control, the Congress adopted model bilateral treaties on extradition; mutual assistance in criminal matters, including the optional protocol on mutual assistance in criminal matters concerning the proceeds of crime; and on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters. Other instruments, norms and standards adopted included the model treaty on the transfer of supervision of offenders conditionally sentenced or conditionally released; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures; the basic principles for the treatment of prisoners; the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency; the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty; the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors; and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

On the basis of recommendations and requests, the Secretariat was required to initiate studies and reseach, with a view to providing technical assistance to Governments on request, and to develop possible policy options for the consideration of Governments, in a number of areas, including:

(a) Expansion of the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) so as to render additional services to an increased membership and to develop new international databases;

(b) Periodic collection and analysis of crime statistics and issuance of the results in a biennial publication;

(c) Promotion of effective law enforcement and promotion of international cooperation between national police services, especially against transnational crime;

(d) Improved criminal justice management through the application of modern managerial techniques and technological developments, such as computerization;

(e) Training and education in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(f) The role of criminal !aw in the protection of nature and the environment;

(g) Computer-related crimes;

(h) Measures against organized and economic crime, including corruption;

(i) Prevention of terrorism and other forms of violence;

(j) Implementation of model treaties, including enabling legislation, for inter-State cooperation in criminal justice matters;

(k) Furtherance of a more appropriate and humane administration of prisons, with emphasis on the observance of prisoners' rights and on the treatment of special categories of prisoners, such as those in pre-trial detention, those serving life sentences, those infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), those with AIDS, women prisoners and young prisoners;

(l) Protection of the human rights of and redress for victims of crime and abuse of power;

(m) Formulation of guidelines or a manual concerning the problem of domestic violence and the exploitation and use of children for criminal activities;

(n) Technical cooperation and assistance in the implementation of United Nations norms and guidelines, including needs assessment, project formulation and execution.

Once again, calls were made for a strengthened United Nations programme in crime prevention and criminal justice, and resources commensurate to the work to be undertaken.

United Nations network of Government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

The United Nations network of Government-appointed national correspondents has been in existence since the transfer of the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission to the United Nations took place in 1951. At that time, the Economic and Social Council invited

> "all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission which are not Members of the United Nations to appoint one or more representatives of expert qualifications or experience, professional or scientific, in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders . . ."

National correspondents facilitate contact with the Secretariat on matters relating to legal, scientific and technical cooperation, training, national laws and regulations, legal policy, the organization of the criminal justice system, crime prevention measures and penitentiary matters. The network promotes the implementation of the United Nations programme of work, and is an important element in the Organization's success in achieving a consensus and promoting cooperation at the regional, interregional and international levels on questions of criminal policy. It is an invaluable asset of the United Nations in terms of the enormous wealth of expertise it offers. The number of national correspondents has doubled since

1985 and currently comprises approximately 300 national correspondents representing 189 countries, including some that are not States Members of the United Nations (see box II).

United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network

A principal function of the programme is to serve as a clearing-house for information. As part of its work in the collection, analysis and exchange of international crime statistics, the Branch established, in 1989, a computerized database and electronic mail service known as the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network (UNCJIN). UNCJIN offers its members—governmental and non-governmental institutions, including criminal justice officials and experts—a number of services ranging from a calendar of criminal justice events, information on training, and statistical data on crime trends in the world.* In its fourth year of operation, UNCJIN serves a steadily increasing number of members worldwide, which at present total approximately 260.

UNCJIN is supported financially by grants from the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Government of the United States of America and coordinated by the School of Criminal Justice of the State University of New York at Albany, United States.

As a modern tool of information-gathering and exchange, UNCJIN can reach an increasing number of members through host networks run by DIALCOM and INTERNET, which offers among other facilities an electronic mail service for discussing current international criminal justice issues.

UNCJIN is cooperating in the development of an electronic World Criminal Justice Library (WCJL), a concept developed by the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice of the State University of New Jersey, United States. WCJL will provide comprehensive global coverage of criminal justice titles held in various libraries. It will help to improve cooperation in locating sought titles and to save library funds by providing details of the publications available in each member library, thereby rendering interlibrary loan facilities more effective.

In order to promote UNCJIN worldwide, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch issues an annual publication entitled *Trends—UNCJIN Crime and Justice Letter*. This publication reports on the work of UNCJIN and on crime trends and victimization studies, the results of which are also made available through UNCJIN itself. As part of the promotion work of UNCJIN, the Branch, together with the network of interregional, regional, affiliated and associate institutes, will hold training courses for current and potential members of UNCJIN. The purpose of the training courses will be twofold, to enable members to take maximum advantage of UNCJIN and to explore further its substantive and logistical development.

As the future of UNCJIN depends on both the collection and dissemination of data, the further expansion of its databases is dependant on the assistance of Governments, non-governmental organizations and other entities and individuals.

*The system also enables information given to the United Nations on a confidential or limited-access basis to be protected in accordance with the provider's wishes.

United Nations Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

In its final stage of existence, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control was acting primarily as the preparatory body for the Eighth Congress. Its functions included the preparing of programmes of international cooperation for submission to the competent United Nations bodies for their approval; promoting the exchange of experience and the discussion of major issues of professional interest as a basis for international cooperation; and coordinating the activities of United Nations bodies in matters concerning crime prevention and control and the treatment of offenders. It also provided policy advice to the Secretariat in the development of the programme.

History of the review exercise

The mandate bestowed on the United Nations in 1948 was conferred in the context of the prevailing attitudes concerning the "nationality" of crime, whereby States exercised jurisdiction principally over crimes committed within their borders or, in the case of some non-common-law countries, over crimes committed anywhere by or against their nationals.

Attitudes have changed markedly since 1948 as can be seen by the various conventions requiring or permitting States to exercise a universal jurisdiction with respect to the offences required to be created pursuant to those Conventions (e.g. aircraft, drugs, internationally protected persons, torture, hostage-taking).

The international community's awareness of the threat posed by crime, including organized crime frequently involving transborder activity, has grown visibly. It is now recognized that the very factors that have permitted the internationalization of lawful economic activity have permitted equally the internationalization of unlawful activity; hence the development of concepts of international mutual assistance in addition to the creation of bodies such as ICPO/Interpol. This awareness of the interdependence of countries in an effective fight against crime was a significant factor that underlined the need for intensifying the operational aspects of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, which led, in turn, to the intensive review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in this field.

Although adjustments have been made over the years to the United Nations programme to reflect the new priorities and requirements of Member States, it was largely through the work of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control that the programme reached its current stage of development in terms of structure, focus and expertise.

A number of structural and resource problems in relation to the Committee existed, which were identified by the Committee itself. First, although they were nominated by Governments, Committee members did not necessarily represent the views of Governments, as they were selected on the basis of their individual expertise. Second, the meetings of the Committee, held once every two years for eight working days, tended necessarily to concentrate on congress preparations, leaving little time for the other important tasks conferred on them. Consequently, the Committee reached the conclusion that it could not adequately address the dynamically changing face of crime

Box II. Network of Government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Country	Year of latest appointment of national correspondent	Number of national correspondents
Afghanistan	1984	1
Albania[a]		
Algeria	1983	1
Angola[a]		
Antigua and Barbuda	1990	1
Argentina	1993	7
Armenia[a]		
Australia	1992	8
Austria	1989	3
Azerbaijan[a]		
Bahamas	1989	2
Bahrain	1989	1
Bangladesh	1977	1
Barbados	1975	1
Belarus	1989	2
Belgium	1984	5
Belize	1982	1
Benin	1985	2
Bhutan[a]		
Bolivia	1982	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina[a]		
Botswana	1992	1
Brazil	1982	6
Brunei Darussalam	1991	1
Bulgaria	1990	3
Burkina Faso	1990	1
Burundi	1986	1
Cambodia[a]		
Cameroon	1990	3
Canada	1989	1
Cape Verde	1982	1
Central African Republic	1980	1
Chad[a]		
Chile	1991	17
China	1989	1
Colombia	1991	2
Comoros[a]		
Congo	1986	2
Costa Rica	1983	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1982	2
Croatia[a]		
Cuba	1989	1
Cyprus	1990	4
Czech Republic[c]		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea[a]		
Denmark	1991	1
Djibouti[a]		
Dominica	1986	1
Dominican Republic[a]		
Ecuador	1982	2
Egypt	1989	3
El Salvador	1982	1
Equatorial Guinea[a]		
Eritrea[a]		
Estonia[a]		
Ethiopia	1991	1
Fiji	1990	2
Finland	1989	4
France	1990	1
Gabon	1981	13
Gambia	1980	2
Georgia[a]		
Germany	1992	4
Ghana	1985	1
Greece	1991	1
Grenada[a]		
Guatemala	1982	2
Guinea[a]		
Guinea-Bissau[a]		
Guyana[a]		
Haiti[a]		
Holy See[a]		
Honduras	1982	2
Hungary	1991	2
Iceland	1986	1
India	1990	6
Indonesia	1990	1
Iran (Islamic Republic of)[a]		
Iraq[a]		
Ireland	1985	1
Israel	1990	7
Italy	1993	2
Jamaica	1988	3
Japan	1992	5
Jordan	1981	1
Kazakhstan[a]		
Kenya	1990	5
Kiribati[a]		
Kuwait	1987	1
Kyrgyzstan[a]		
Lao People's Democratic Republic[a]		
Latvia[a]		
Lebanon[a]		
Lesotho	1986	1
Liberia	1975	1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1976	3
Liechtenstein[a]		
Lithuania[a]		
Luxembourg	1990	1
Madagascar	1984	4
Malawi	1991	2
Malaysia[a]		
Maldives	1986	1
Mali	1987	2
Malta	1991	2
Marshall Islands[a]		
Mauritania	1976	1
Mauritius	1984	1
Mexico	1980	2
Micronesia (Federated States of)[a]		
Monaco[a]		
Mongolia[a]		
Morocco	1989	1
Mozambique	1984	1
Myanmar	1991	1
Namibia[a]		
Nauru	1985	1
Nepal[a]		
Netherlands	1989	1
New Zealand	1989	1
Nicaragua[a]		
Niger	1980	2
Nigeria	1982	2
Norway	1993	2
Oman	1990	1
Pakistan[a]		
Panama	1984	1
Papua New Guinea	1980	1
Paraguay[a]		
Peru	1989	1
Philippines	1989	1
Poland	1990	5
Portugal	1983	6
Qatar	1980	1
Republic of Korea	1989	1
Republic of Moldova[a]		
Romania	1991	2
Russian Federation	1988	3
Rwanda	1981	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis[a]		
Saint Lucia	1991	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1985	1
Samoa	1988	1
San Marino	1985	1
Sao Tome and Principe[a]		
Saudi Arabia	1989	2
Senegal	1982	1
Seychelles	1982	1
Sierra Leone	1980	2
Singapore	1981	1
Slovakia[c]		
Slovenia		1
Solomon Islands	1982	1
Somalia[a]		
South Africa	1989	1
Spain	1989	2
Sri Lanka	1982	1
Sudan	1993	1
Suriname	1985	1
Swaziland	1990	1
Sweden	1993	3
Switzerland	1989	1
Syrian Arab Republic	1990	1
Tajikistan[a]		
Thailand	1991	4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[a]		
Togo	1985	2
Tonga	1988	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1991	1
Tunisia	1989	1
Turkey	1990	2
Turkmenistan[a]		
Tuvalu	1988	1
Uganda	1987	1
Ukraine	1989	1
United Arab Emirates	1982	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1990	1
United Republic of Tanzania	1982	1
United States of America	1985	3
Uruguay	1985	2
Uzbekistan[a]		
Vanuatu[a]		
Venezuela	1987	2
Viet Nam[a]		
Yemen[a]		
Yugoslavia	1982	2
Zaire	1985	5
Zambia	1985	2
Zimbabwe	1990	4

[a] In 1991 two national correspondents were appointed for Czechoslovakia; since then no new information has been received.

[b] No appointment made.

[c] New Member State.

and that what was required was a systematic, permanent dialogue and exchange of views and experiences. Thus, the Secretariat would be given additional direction in developing, prioritizing and implementing the programme, which, with its increased range of mandated activities, required more professional, technical and specialized work by the Secretariat and a more effective and efficient management of the programme itself.

Since its ninth session in 1986, the Committee had been intensively concerned with the review of the functioning and programme of the work of the United Nations in the field. The review process highlighted the organizational and structural constraints on the programme, and the scarcity of means, which seriously hampered the fulfilment of United Nations functions, and brought to light the fact that, in spite of repeated calls for strengthening international action, little had been done to bridge the gap between worldwide needs and the international response.

In 1988, the Committee, set up a subcommittee, recognizing that the scope and extent of criminal activity had assumed dimensions that could not have been foreseen by Member States 40 years earlier when they entrusted the United Nations with a leading role in crime prevention and criminal justice. The subcommittee was entrusted with the task of: *(a)* providing an overview of the magnitude of the problem of crime from economic, criminological, social and juridical aspects; *(b)* assessing the most efficient means of stimulating practical international action in support of Member States, and, in particular, the role of the United Nations in that regard; and *(c)* making recommendations to the Committee, at its eleventh session, concerning the most effective mechanisms for the implementation of the conclusions of the overview.

Accordingly, the Committee considered the subcommittee's report at its eleventh session. The report presented a comprehensive analysis of the situation and the requirements for effective international action in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and concluded that a crime and justice programme able to meet the pressing needs of the contemporary world must be designed to assist countries in meeting problems of both national and transnational crime. Such a programme should encompass all forms of assistance from information exchange and joint research to technical cooperation and collaborative action. It would build bridges between different legal systems, ensure similarity of approaches to emerging problems (e.g. money-laundering), and facilitate effective international cooperation, in particular by providing technical assistance to developing countries, including emerging democracies in eastern Europe.

A number of modalities, both administrative and substantive, were identified in order to create such an effective programme. The Committee stressed that in order for the programme to have any realistic chance of success, it must have an organizational structure and size consonant with its important purposes and the volume and importance of the mandates entrusted to it. As the administrative structure in place at that time was deemed inadequate, the Committee thought that a new major entity should be established to consolidate in one place the more direct United Nations crime and justice responsibilities, to assure the ability to coordinate the related United Nations functions and to facilitate working towards the expansion of international cooperation in investigation, adjudication, sanctioning, enforcement, research and training.

From the substantive point of view, the Committee emphasized that the political will of Member States was essential in developing an effective crime and justice programme, and that a summit meeting would be the most effective means of securing this political will. According to the Committee, the establishment of an intergovernmental commission was desirable as crime prevention and criminal justice was a governmental function and it should be Governments, and not individual experts, who should undertake this work in the context of the United Nations. The Committee was of the opinion that another appropriate measure for eliciting international support and developing the programme would be the adoption of a comprehensive international instrument on crime prevention and criminal justice, possibly in the form of an international convention.

As to structure, it was recommended that a separate programme within the United Nations should be created, involving Governments and their criminal justice experts and maintaining the current level of United Nations funding while also exploring other funding possibilities and at the same time keeping an appropriate balance between programme content and delivery on the one hand and the available structure and resources on the other.

The Committee's findings were considered at the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana in 1990, and subsequently by the General Assembly. The Assembly decided to establish an intergovernmental working group, which would produce a report elaborating the proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and suggesting how that programme could most appropriately be implemented. The Assembly, also, invited Member States, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee, to convene an early ministerial meeting to consider the report of the intergovernmental working group, and to consider the possible need for a convention or other international instrument to develop the content, structure and dynamics of that programme, including mechanisms for setting priorities, securing the implementation of the programme and monitoring the results achieved.

Intergovernmental Working Group on the Creation of an Effective International Crime and Justice Programme

In 1990, the President of the General Assembly was requested to appoint no more than 30 Member States on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution to constitute the membership of the intergovernmental working group. Following consultations by the President with the chairmen of the regional groups, 29 countries were appointed as members (see box III).

The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Creation of an Effective International Crime and Justice Programme met at Vienna from 5 to 9 August 1991, and used, as a starting-point, the report adopted by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its eleventh session (E/1990/31). It recognized that there was a pressing need for an effective, practically oriented and properly prioritized United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The criteria used by the Working Group to determine elements of the programme included: the identification of criminal activities exacting the high-

Box III. Members of the Intergovernmental Working Group

African States
Burkina Faso
Egypt
Ghana
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Nigeria
Sudan
Uganda

Asian States
China
India
Indonesia
Japan
Malaysia
Philippines

Eastern European States
Poland
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Yugoslavia

Latin American and Caribbean States
Argentina
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Nicaragua
Trinidad and Tobago

Western European and other States
Australia
France
Germany
Sweden
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

est social and economic costs; the identification of practical issues in areas of greatest need and of greatest concern to those responsible for the administration of justice; the identification of measures most likely to improve the efficiency of criminal justice systems; the need to preserve an appropriate balance between measures for the protection of human rights and measures for the prevention and control of crime; national measures to respond to both national and international aspects and dimensions of crime; measures for enhanced effective international cooperation in the prevention and control of crime at both the national and international level; a capacity to provide technical and other assistance in crime prevention, detection and prosecution and the treatment of offenders where necessary and requested; a capacity to monitor the latest developments in criminal trends and investigative and legislative techniques coupled with the capacity to serve as an effective mechanism for the exchange of information, including statistical data; and the capacity of the United Nations to achieve the objectives.

The Working Group recommended that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should be dissolved and that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should be established as a new functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. It also agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that it decide that the new United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme should be devoted to providing practical assistance to States, particularly in combating both national and transnational crime. Furthermore, it agreed that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to give a high level of priority within the United Nations framework, and within the overall existing resources, to the activities of the new programme. The Working Group formulated a Statement of Principles and a Programme of Action, recommending the establishment of the new programme, and set out its goals and scope, priorities, structure and management. It recommended that the programme should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations, and the funds that would be allocated for technical assistance be supplemented by direct voluntary contributions from Member States and interested funding agencies. Member States should be encouraged to make contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, to be renamed the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.*

Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

The report of the Intergovernmental Working Group (A/CONF.156/2) was submitted to the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held in Paris, France, from 21 to 23 November 1991. The Ministerial Meeting was attended by a total of 107 delegations, with some 65 ministers, in addition to a wide range of representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

At the Meeting, ministers and other heads of delegations expressed concern about the increase in criminality, which had reached unacceptable levels in many countries. Rising crime rates seemed to be an almost universal phenomenon. Lawbreakers were acting more aggressively, while organized crime was making inroads into government and economic affairs. The consequences were often overloaded courts, inundated police forces and overcrowded prisons, as well as widespread public fear, coupled with demands for more effective control policies. An inadequate criminal justice system undermined the faith of the citizens in the capacity of their government to protect them. There was an acute need for better and more accurate criminal statistics, including the harmonization and standardization of data collection, particularly on transnational crime, seen as essential for the evaluation of the global crime situation. In addition, the exchange of information and sharing of intelligence, through the establishment of a solid database relating to transnatio-

*The United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, now called the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, receives both general and earmarked contributions from Governments and other entities. It was orginally established by the Economic and Social Council in 1965 (resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965) for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to carry out its responsibilities in the social defence field.

nal crimes, such as terrorism, organized criminality and money-laundering, would not only facilitate extradition requests, but also further encourage mutual assistance and cooperation at all levels.

One of the main tasks of the new United Nations programme would be to raise public awareness of the potential of international cooperation in this field, and to assist Member States in promoting such means for inter-State cooperation. The importance of the United Nations instruments, norms, standards and guidelines in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice was also widely acknowledged. They served not only as valuable guidelines for States, but also as a basis for the work of the United Nations bodies established to combat grave human rights violations.

The main task of the Ministerial Meeting was to prepare conclusions and recommendations on the new programme for adoption by the General Assembly. The Meeting, which met in plenary for general discussion and in a Committee of the Whole entrusted with drafting the conclusions and recommendations, consistently showed great support for the new programme. It endorsed, in particular, the establishment of a Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which would provide policy guidance to the Secretariat, and redefined the role of the congresses as a consultative body to the programme. The issue of the financial implications of the new programme, which would be geared much more strongly towards practical assistance and technical cooperation, also received thorough attention.

The Committee of the Whole reviewed the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group and a number of proposals for amendments were put forward. The Meeting devoted considerable time to some of the more difficult issues, which included the precise timetable and procedure for establishing the new Commission and dissolving the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, including the schedule of the first session of the Commission; the geographical distribution of seats in the new Commission; upgrading the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a Division and related questions of resources; the possible need for a convention in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; and the possibility of establishing a criminal justice foundation.

The Meeting decided that the general goals of the new programme should be to contribute to the prevention of crime within and among States; the control of crime both nationally and internationally; the strengthening of regional and international cooperation in crime prevention, criminal justice and the combating of transnational crime; the integration and consolidation of the efforts of Member States in preventing and combating transnational crime; more efficient and effective administration of justice, with due respect for the human rights of those affected by crime and all those involved in the criminal justice system; and the promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity, justice and professional conduct.

On the scope of the new programme, the Ministerial Meeting recommended that the programme should include: research and studies at the national, regional and global levels on specific prevention issues and criminal justice measures; regular international surveys to assess trends in crime and developments in the operation of criminal justice systems and in crime prevention strategies; and the exchange and dissemination of information among States, particularly with regard to innovative measures and the results achieved in their application. The new programme was also to encompass training and the upgrading of the skills of personnel working in the various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice; and technical assistance, including advisory services, particularly in respect of the planning, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention and criminal justice programmes, training and the use of modern communication and information techniques.

The Meeting recommended that the new role of the quinquennial congresses would be to act as advisory bodies with the principal function of reviewing progress in the preceding five years and setting broad policy directions for the ensuing five years; providing a venue for the exchange of information, experiences and views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines; the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development; and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice. The congresses would also provide advice and comments to the Commission on selected matters and suggestions regarding possible subjects for the work programme. The Commission, in turn, would select precisely defined topics for the congresses so as to ensure a focused and productive discussion.

On the issue of funding for the new programme, the Ministerial Meeting recommended that it should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations and that Member States should be encouraged to make contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. They would also be encouraged to contribute in kind for the operational activities of the programme, particularly by seconding staff, organizing training courses and seminars and providing the requisite equipment and services.

The Meeting recommended the upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division with responsibility for providing secretariat services for the Commission and the congresses and for implementing the programme as well as managing it on a day-to-day basis. In particular, it recommended that its resources should be expanded to ensure the management and coordination of technical cooperation efforts, criminal justice training and research; the provision of technical assistance to Member States, especially through the services of regional and interregional advisers, in the preparation of need analyses and policy determination, as well as the implementation of the necessary reforms for improved criminal justice administration and the inclusion of crime prevention elements in national planning; the design and performance of surveys of trends in crime, and crime prevention and criminal justice strategies in special areas of concern; and the production, collection and dissemination of useful crime and justice information, including the delivery of services by UNCJIN. This would require an organizational and management capacity that would reflect the importance of the programme, provide the management capacity to cope with the dynamics of the crime problem at all levels, have the capability to reassess priorities constantly and maintain a sharp and accurate focus; maintain the practical orientation of the programme; have overall direct coordination responsibility for the programme; have the capacity to cooperate with non-United Nations bodies with expertise in crime prevention and criminal justice matters; and be

capable of monitoring the usage of resources and ensuring optimum return by constant evaluation of outcomes or results.

In three days of discussion, consensus was reached on the elements and future structure of a programme. In the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, the representatives of Governments stated their conviction that there was an urgent need for more efficient international mechanisms to assist States and to facilitate joint strategies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. They expressed their determination to translate their political will into concrete reality by the following means: creating the essential mechanisms for practical collaboration against common problems; providing a framework for inter-State cooperation and coordination to respond to the serious new forms and transnational aspects and dimensions of crime; establishing channels for the exchange of information concerning the implementation and effectiveness of the United Nations norms and standards in crime prevention and criminal justice; providing means of assistance, particularly to developing countries, for more effective crime prevention and humane justice; and establishing an adequate resource base for a truly effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. In sum, the review of the programme had to aim at strengthening its effectiveness, improving its efficiency and establishing an adequate Secretariat support structure.

The Programme of Action gave a clear definition of the programme, specified its goals and scope, including criteria for priority-setting, and provided viable directives for its structure and management, under the overall policy guidance of the new intergovernmental Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

In the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action, ministers and other heads of delegations at the Meeting recognized that many criminal offences had international dimensions and that democracy and a better quality of life could flourish only in a context of peace and security for all. They called on the international community to increase its support of technical cooperation and assistance activities for the benefit of all countries and acknowledged the contribution of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme to the international community.

Future-oriented action by the General Assembly

The report of the Ministerial Meeting (A/46/703) was submitted to the General Assembly in December 1991 for consideration and action at its forty-sixth session. Representatives at the Assembly welcomed the results achieved and emphasized that the conclusions and recommendations offered the most appropriate measures currently feasible to create a truly effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and represented a real political commitment by Member States.

Representatives recognized that in the past, the United Nations machinery dealing with crime prevention and criminal justice had been neglected, owing in part to the lack of resources and to insufficient political support. With the internationalization and growing sophistication of crime, the Assembly realized that the importance of effective United Nations action in this field was greater than ever. Although, from the early days of the Organization, crime prevention and criminal justice had been considered to be fundamental to social progress and better standards of life, and while efforts had been made to tackle the many aspects of crime, it had to be recognized that the United Nations programme had not been able to keep pace with the changing nature and dimensions of crime. The importance of providing the Secretariat with sufficient resources could not be overemphasized.

In shedding light on the seriousness and extent of criminality and its transnational ramifications, it was noted that often law enforcement and criminal justice personnel were still constrained by domestic and other factors. It had to be acknowledged that transnational crime could become powerful enough to inhibit social and economic development, threaten the stability of Governments, and reduce their capacity to meet the legitimate aspirations of their citizens to be protected against it. The fact was that the fate of countries, and of the international community as a whole, hinged on the urgent solution of many problems, including that of crime. That problem had grown so large in recent years that it was literally straining the capacity of many countries to control it, causing harm to the dignity and welfare of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people. Organized crime, in particular, had expanded its scope, exploiting the transition to market economies, and infiltrating into legal activities, under the cover of which it laundered its huge profits. There was, therefore, no doubt that even the most strenuous efforts by any individual State would have little success unless supported by international cooperative action. Only the United Nations could effectively coordinate such action, by developing and implementing a concerted and truly international strategy directed at providing practical help. Technical cooperation and assistance were thus of paramount importance in that context.

In its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to dissolve the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and to establish the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a new functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, which would hold its inaugural meeting during 1992. In approving the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action annexed to the resolution, the Assembly indicated its agreement to the geographical distribution of the 40 seats of the Commission as follows: African States (12); Asian States (9); Latin American and Caribbean States (8); Western European and other States (7); Eastern European States (4).

The approval of the Programme of Action, also indicated the Assembly's acceptance of its recommendations covering definition, goals, scope, structure, management, functions and organizational structure of the Secretariat and the programme; the quinquennial congresses; programme support, including the interregional and regional institutes, inter-institute coordination, the network

of government-appointed national correspondents, UNCJIN, the roles of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and the funding of the programme.

Since the Seventh Congress in 1985, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have adopted by consensus a number of resolutions expressing serious concern about the severe constraints placed on the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 46/152 marked the end of a long review process and set the path for the future programme consistent with the desire of the Committee to see the potential of the programme fully realized, even though this goal would be at the cost of the dissolution of the Committee. In its resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992, the Economic and Social Council acted on General Assembly resolution 46/152 and established the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as one of its functional commissions.

The text of General Assembly resolution 46/152 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and its annex, is reproduced below.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/152

The text of General Assembly resolution 46/152 and its annex which were adopted on 19 December 1991, are reproduced below.

Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the scope of criminality and by the dangers posed to the welfare of all nations by the rising incidence of crime generally and by the many forms of criminal activity that have international dimensions,

Alarmed also by the high cost of crime in both human and material terms, especially in its new and transnational forms, and aware of the effects of crime both on States and on individual victims,

Recalling that, in its resolution 45/108 of 14 December 1990, it decided to establish an intergovernmental working group to produce a report elaborating proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and suggesting how that programme could most appropriately be implemented,

Acknowledging with appreciation the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Creation of an Effective International Crime and Justice Programme,[a] which met at Vienna from 5 to 9 August 1991,

Acknowledging with appreciation also the work of the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held in Paris from 21 to 23 November 1991,[b]

Recognizing that criminality is a major concern of all nations and that it calls for a concerted response from the international community aimed at preventing crime and recidivism, improving the functioning of criminal justice and law enforcement, and increasing respect for individual rights,

Acknowledging that a United Nations programme devoted to crime prevention and criminal justice can only be effective with the direct involvement of Member States,

Convinced that the principal purpose of such a programme should be to provide practical assistance to States in combating both national and transnational crime,

Noting the principles contained in the Milan Plan of Action[c] and the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order,[d] as well as other pertinent instruments formulated by United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and approved by the General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions in which it stressed the importance of the Commission on Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat with regard to respect for human rights in the administration of justice,

Recognizing the urgent need to promote and intensify international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, and the fact that this cooperation can be effective only if it is executed with the direct participation of the receiving States, with due respect for their needs and priorities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;[b]

2. *Approves* the statement of principles and programme of action, annexed to the present resolution, recommending the establishment of a United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

3. *Supports* a clearer definition of the mandate of the programme with regard to crime prevention and criminal justice, under the aegis and guidance of the United Nations, whose aim will be to respond to the most pressing priorities and needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give a high level of priority within the United Nations framework, and within the overall existing United Nations resources, to the activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

5. *Decides* that the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme shall be devoted to providing States with practical assistance, such as data collection, information and experience sharing, and training, in order to achieve the goals of preventing crime within and among States and of improving the response to crime;

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[a] See A/CONF.156/2.

[b] See A/46/703 and Corr.1.

[c] See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[d] Ibid., sect. B.

6. *Invites* Member States to give their political and financial support and to take measures that will ensure the implementation of the provisions of the statement of principles and programme of action as they relate to the strengthening of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in terms of its structure, content and priorities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action within the overall existing United Nations resources in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations and to provide appropriate resources for the effective functioning of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in accordance with the principles outlined in the statement of principles and programme of action;

8. *Urges* all entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the specialized agencies and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to assist the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in fulfilling its tasks;

9. *Encourages* all developed countries to review their aid programmes in order to ensure that there is a full and proper contribution in the field of criminal justice within the overall context of development priorities;

10. *Decides* to recommend that a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice be established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, which would hold its inaugural meeting during 1992, and recommends that the meeting of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control scheduled for February 1992 be cancelled and that the funds necessary for the work of the new commission be made available within the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

11. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1992:

(a) To dissolve the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control;

(b) To establish the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice as a new functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the statement of principles and programme of action;

(c) To endorse the role and functions of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the statement of principles and programme of action;

12. *Decides* that the present members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should be invited to participate during the first two days of the inaugural session of the new commission, at the expense of their respective Governments, except in the case of Committee members from least developed countries, in order to facilitate an orderly transition;

13. *Also decides* to retain for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, without prejudice to additional funds that may be made available by the Secretary-General, all funds currently allocated to the programme, as well as any savings realized by restructuring;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on measures taken to implement the statement of principles and programme of action.

ANNEX

Statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

We, Member States of the United Nations,

Assembled in Paris to consider ways and means of promoting international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice and of strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in order to make it fully effective and responsive to the needs and priorities of Member States,

Considering that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion,

Convinced of the urgent need for more efficient international mechanisms to assist States and to facilitate joint strategies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, thus consolidating the role of the United Nations as the focal point in that field,

Noting the importance of the principles contained in the Milan Plan of Action[c] and the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order,[d] as well as other pertinent instruments formulated by United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and approved by the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specifically the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, the observance of human rights and the promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Recognizing that it is essential to elicit active support for, and to provide the means of assistance for the development of, an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to devise appropriate implementation mechanisms,

Deeply concerned about the extent and growth of crime, with its financial, economic and social consequences,

Alarmed at the high cost of crime in both human and material terms, as well as in its new national and transnational forms, and aware of the effects of crime both on States and on individual victims,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for crime prevention and criminal justice rests with Member States,

Emphasizing the need for strengthened regional and international cooperation to combat crime and recidivism, to effect the improved functioning of criminal justice systems, to promote respect for individual rights and to safeguard the rights of victims of crime and the general security of the public,

Aware that there is unanimity about the need to create a new, vigorous United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, as well as agreement on the need to establish an intergovernmental body for policy-making and priority-setting, to strengthen the effectiveness of the Secretariat unit within the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, and to increase technical cooperation to help countries, particu-

larly developing countries, translate United Nations policy-guidelines into practice, including training,

Determined to translate our political will into concrete action:

(a) By creating the essential mechanisms for practical collaboration against common problems;

(b) By providing a framework for inter-State cooperation and coordination to respond to the serious new forms and transnational aspects and dimensions of crime;

(c) By establishing information exchanges concerning the implementation and effectiveness of the United Nations norms and standards in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) By providing means of assistance, particularly to developing countries, for more effective crime prevention and more human justice;

(e) By establishing an adequate resource base for a truly effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,

Proclaim our strong commitment to the above-mentioned goals and agree on the following:

I. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. We recognize that the world is experiencing very important changes resulting in a political climate conducive to democracy, to international cooperation, to more widespread enjoyment of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the realization of the aspirations of all nations to economic development and social welfare. Notwithstanding these developments, the world today is still beset by violence and other forms of serious crime. These phenomena, wherever they occur, constitute a threat to the maintenance of the rule of law.

2. We believe that justice based on the rule of law is the pillar on which civilized society rests. We seek to improve its quality. A humane and efficient criminal justice system can be an instrument of equity, constructive social change and social justice, protecting basic values and peoples' inalienable rights. Every right of the individual should enjoy the protection of the law against violation, a process in which the criminal justice system plays an essential role.

3. We have in mind the fact that the lowering of the world crime rate is related to, among other factors, the improvement of the social conditions of the population. The developed countries and the developing countries are experiencing difficult situations in this respect. Nevertheless, the specific problems encountered by the developing countries justify priority being given to dealing with the situation confronting these countries.

4. We believe that rising crime is impairing the process of development and the general well-being of humanity and is causing general disquiet within our societies. If this situation continues, progress and development will be the ultimate victims of crime.

5. We also believe that the growing internationalization of crime must generate new and commensurate responses. Organized crime is exploiting the relaxation of border controls designed to foster legitimate trade and, hence, development. The incidence and scope of such crimes may increase further in the coming years unless sound preventive measures are taken. It is thus particularly important to anticipate events and to assist Member States in mounting suitable preventive and control strategies.

6. We recognize that many criminal offences have international dimensions. In this context, there is an urgent need for States to address, while respecting the sovereignty of States, problems arising in collecting evidence, extraditing offenders and promoting mutual legal assistance, for example, when such offences are committed across frontiers or when frontiers are used to escape detection or prosecution. Despite differences in legal systems, experience has shown that mutual assistance and cooperation can be effective countermeasures and can help to prevent conflicts of jurisdiction.

7. We also recognize that democracy and a better quality of life can flourish only in a context of peace and security for all. Crime poses a threat to stability and to a safe environment. Crime prevention and criminal justice, with due regard to the observance of human rights, is thus a direct contribution to the maintenance of peace and security.

8. We must ensure that any increases in the capacity and capabilities of perpetrators of crime are matched by similar increases in the capacity and capabilities of law enforcement and criminal justice authorities. By pooling our knowledge and developing suitable countermeasures, success in the prevention of crime and the reduction of victimization can be maximized. We recognize in particular the need to improve and strengthen the means of the crime prevention and control authorities in the developing countries, whose critical economic and social situation is further increasing the difficulties in this area.

9. We call on the international community to increase its support of technical cooperation and assistance activities for the benefit of all countries, including developing and smaller countries, and for the purpose of expanding and strengthening the infrastructure needed for effective crime prevention and viable, fair and humane criminal justice systems.

10. We acknowledge the contribution of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme to the international community. We note that it is a long-recognized fact that inadequate resources have been devoted to the implementation of the programme, which has in the past been inhibited from achieving its potential. We also note that a strengthening of the resources devoted to the implementation of the programme was called for by the Sixth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,[e] the Seventh United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders[f] and the Eighth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.[g] We further note that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, gave priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of a subcommittee established to provide an overview of the problem of crime and to assess the most efficient means of stimulating practical international action in support of Member States, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/72 of 8 December 1989. The Committee, in its resolution 11/3 of 16 February 1990,[h] unanimously approved a report of the subcommittee on the need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme.[i] That report, which was endorsed by the Eighth Congress, was used as an important tool for the establishment of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/108.

11. We accordingly recommend intensified international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

12. We are convinced that there is a need for Governments to define more clearly the role and functions of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and the secretariat of the programme and to determine priorities within that programme.

13. We strongly believe that the review of the programme should aim at strengthening its effectiveness, improving its efficiency and establishing an adequate Secretariat support structure.

II. PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A. Definition

14. The United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme shall bring together the work of the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice, the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the network of government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network and the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders in providing assistance to Member States in their efforts to reduce the incidence and costs of crime and in

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[e] See *Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4).

[f] See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1).

[g] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2).

[h] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 10* (E/1990/31), chap. I, sect. D.

[i] E/1990/31/Add.1.

developing the proper functioning of their criminal justice systems. The establishment of this programme will be effected in accordance with the procedures defined below and within the framework of the total available resources of the United Nations.

B. Goals

15. The programme shall be designed to assist the international community in meeting its pressing needs in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and to provide countries with timely and practical assistance in dealing with problems of both national and transnational crime.

16. The general goals of the programme shall be to contribute to the following:

(a) The prevention of crime within and among States;

(b) The control of crime both nationally and internationally;

(c) The strengthening of regional and international cooperation in crime prevention, criminal justice and the combating of transnational crime;

(d) The integration and consolidation of the efforts of Member States in preventing and combating transnational crime;

(e) More efficient and effective administration of justice, with due respect for the human rights of all those affected by crime and all those involved in the criminal justice system;

(f) The promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity, justice and professional conduct.

C. Scope of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice programme

17. The programme shall include appropriate forms of cooperation for the purpose of assisting States in dealing with problems of both national and transnational crime. In particular, it may include:

(a) Research and studies at the national, regional and global levels on specific prevention issues and criminal justice measures;

(b) Regular international surveys to assess trends in crime and developments in the operation of criminal justice systems and in crime prevention strategies;

(c) Exchange and dissemination of information among States on crime prevention and criminal justice, particularly with regard to innovative measures and the results achieved in their application;

(d) Training and upgrading of the skills of personnel working in the various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(e) Technical assistance, including advisory services, particularly in respect of the planning, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention and criminal justice programmes, training and the use of modern communication and information techniques; such assistance may be implemented by means of, for example, fellowships, study tours, consultancies, secondments, courses, seminars and demonstration and pilot projects.

18. Within the framework of the programme, the United Nations should directly carry out the above-mentioned forms of cooperation or should act as a coordinating or facilitating agent. Special attention should be paid to the creation of mechanisms to provide flexible and appropriate assistance and to respond to the needs of Member States at their request, without duplicating the activities of other existing mechanisms.

19. For the purpose of those forms of cooperation, Member States should establish and maintain reliable and effective channels of communication among themselves and with the United Nations.

20. The programme may also include, as appropriate, while respecting the sovereignty of States, a review of the effectiveness and application of and, where necessary, further development and promotion of international instruments on crime prevention and criminal justice.

D. Programme priorities

21. In developing the programme, areas of priority shall be determined in response to the needs and concerns of Member States, with particular consideration being given to the following:

(a) Empirical evidence, including research findings and other information on the nature and extent of crime and on trends in crime;

(b) The social, financial and other costs of various forms of crimes and/or crime control to the individual, the local, national and international community, and to the development process;

(c) The need of developing or developed countries, which are confronting specific difficulties related to national or international circumstances, to have recourse to experts and other resources necessary for establishing and developing programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice that are appropriate at the national and local levels;

(d) The need for a balance within the programme of work between programme development and practical action;

(e) The protection of human rights in the administration of justice and the prevention and control of crime;

(f) The assessment of areas in which concerted action at the international level and within the framework of the programme would be most effective;

(g) Avoidance of overlapping with the activities of other entities of the United Nations system or of other organizations.

22. The commission on crime prevention and criminal justice shall not be bound by mandates conferred prior to its formation, but shall assess them on their merits by applying the principles mentioned in paragraph 21 above.

E. Structure and management

1. *Commission on crime prevention and criminal justice*

23. A commission on crime prevention and criminal justice shall be established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. The commission shall have the power to create ad hoc working groups and to appoint special rapporteurs, as it deems necessary.

Membership

24. The commission shall consist of forty Member States of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Its members shall serve for a term of three years, except that the terms of one half of the first elected members, whose names shall be chosen by lot, shall expire after two years. Each Member State shall make every effort to ensure that its delegation includes experts and senior officials with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice, preferably with policy responsibility in the field. Provisions should be made in the regular budget of the United Nations to defray the travel costs of the representatives of the least developed countries that are members of the commission.[/]

Sessions

25. The commission shall hold annual sessions of not more than ten working days.

Functions

26. The commission shall have the following functions:

(a) To provide policy guidance to the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(b) To develop, monitor and review the implementation of the programme on the basis of a system of medium-term planning in accordance with the priority principles provided in paragraph 21 above;

(c) To facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

(d) To mobilize the support of Member States for the programme;

[/]It is recommended that in order to commence the work of the commission as soon as possible, the geographical distribution of the commission should be as follows: African States (12), Asian States (9), Latin American and Caribbean States (8), Western European and other States (7), Eastern European States (4). The size and geographical distribution of the commission may be reviewed two years after the first session of the commission.

(e) To prepare for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and to consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the programme of work as submitted by the congresses.

2. *Committee on Crime Prevention and Control*

27. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should be dissolved by the Economic and Social Council upon the establishment by the Council of the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice. There will be a basic need for involving independent experts in the area of crime prevention and control.

28. The commission shall, when necessary, use the services of a limited number of qualified and experienced experts, either as individual consultants or in working groups, in order to assist in the preparations for and follow-up work of the commission. Their advice shall be transmitted to the commission for consideration. The commission shall be encouraged to seek such advice whenever it is needed. One of the major tasks of the experts shall be to assist in the preparations for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders.[4]

3. *United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders*

29. The United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, as a consultative body of the programme, shall provide a forum for:

(a) The exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines;

(b) The exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development;

(c) The identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) The provision of advice and comments to the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice on selected matters submitted to it by the commission;

(e) The submission of suggestions, for the consideration of the commission, regarding possible subjects for the programme of work.

30. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the programme and to achieve optimal results, the following arrangements should be implemented:

(a) The congresses should be held every five years, for a period of between five and ten working days;

(b) The commission shall select precisely defined topics for the congresses in order to ensure a focused and productive discussion;

(c) Quinquennial regional meetings should be held under the guidance of the commission on issues related to the agenda of the commission or of the congresses, or on any other matters, except when a region does not consider it necessary to hold such a meeting. The United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders should be fully involved, as appropriate, in the organization of those meetings. The commission shall give due consideration to the need to finance such meetings, in particular in developing regions, through the regular budget of the United Nations;

(d) Action-oriented research workshops on topics selected by the commission, as part of the programme of a congress, and ancillary meetings associated with the congresses should be encouraged.

4. *Organizational structure of the secretariat and of the programme*

31. The secretariat of the programme shall be the permanent body responsible for facilitating the implementation of the programme, the priorities of which shall be established by the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice and for assisting the commission in conducting evaluations of the progress made and analyses of the difficulties encountered. For that purpose, the secretariat shall:

(a) Mobilize existing resources, including institutes, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other competent authorities for the implementation of the programme;

(b) Coordinate research, training and the collection of data on crime and justice, and provide technical assistance and practical information for Member States, particularly through the Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network;

(c) Assist the commission in the organization of its work and in the preparations, in accordance with the directions of the commission, for the congresses and any other events relating to the programme;

(d) Ensure that the potential donors of criminal justice assistance are put in touch with countries needing the help in question;

(e) Make the case for assistance in the field of criminal justice to the appropriate funding agencies.

32. It is recommended to the Secretary-General that, in recognition of the high priority that should be accorded to the programme, an upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat into a division should be effected as soon as possible, under the conditions set out in paragraph 14 above, bearing in mind the structure of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

33. The Professional staff of the secretariat of the programme shall be called "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officers".

34. The secretariat of the programme shall be directed by a senior official responsible for the overall day-to-day management and supervision of the programme, communicating with the relevant government officials, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations whose activities are relevant to the programme.

F. Programme support

1. *United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders*

35. The activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders[5] should be supported by Member States and the United Nations, with particular attention being given to the needs of such institutes located in developing countries. Given the important role of such institutes, their contributions to policy development and implementation, and their resource requirements, especially those of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, should be fully integrated into the overall programme.

2. *Coordination among the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders*

36. The institutes should keep one another and the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice informed on a regular basis about their programme of work and its implementation.

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[4]The secretariat of the programme shall keep a list of such experts. The experts shall be selected by the commission in collaboration with the secretariat, the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and non-governmental organizations. The commission, in consultation with Member States, shall develop a mechanism for that purpose. Such experts, who may be either government officials or other individuals, shall be chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. They should be available to the programme in their individual independent capacity for at least three years. Expert group meetings shall take place subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 14.

[5]The United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders consist of the following:

(a) The United Nations Asia and Far East Insitute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, established in 1961 at Fuchu, Japan;

(b) The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, established in 1968 at Rome;

(c) The United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, established in 1975 at San José;

(d) The Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, established in 1981 at Helsinki;

(e) The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, established in 1989 at Kampala.

In addition, three other institutes are currently cooperating closely with the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:

(a) The Arab Security Studies and Training Centre, at Riyadh;

(b) The Australian Institute of Criminology, at Canberra;

(c) The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, at Vancouver, Canada.

37. The commission may request the institutes, subject to the availability of resources, to implement select elements of the programme. The commission may also suggest areas for inter-institute activities.

38. The commission shall seek to mobilize extrabudgetary support for the activities of the institutes.

3. *Network of government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice*

39. Member States should designate one or more national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice as focal points for the purpose of maintaining direct communication with the secretariat of the programme and other elements of the programme.

40. The national correspondents shall facilitate contact with the secretariat on matters of legal, scientific and technical cooperation, training, information on national laws and regulations, legal policy, the organization of the criminal justice system, crime prevention measures and penitentiary matters.

4. *Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network*

41. Member States shall support the United Nations in the development and maintenance of the Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network in order to facilitate the collection, analysis, exchange and dissemination, as appropriate, of information and the centralization of inputs from non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

42. Member States shall undertake to provide the Secretary-General on a regular basis and upon request with data on the dynamics, structure and extent of crime and on the operation of crime prevention and criminal justice strategies in their respective countries.

5. *Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations*

43. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the scientific community are a valuable source of professional expertise, advocacy and assistance. Their contributions should be fully utilized in programme development and implementation.

G. Funding of the programme

44. The programme shall be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. Funds allocated for technical assistance may be supplemented by direct voluntary contributions from Member States and interested funding agencies. Member States are encouraged to make contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, to be renamed the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. They are also encouraged to contribute in kind for the operational activities of the programme, particularly by seconding staff, organizing training courses and seminars, and providing the requisite equipment and services.

The Secretariat welcomes all inquiries. Correspondence concerning the *Newsletter* should be addressed to the Editor, *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Newsletter,* Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

The Secretariat welcomes any requests for documentation, as well as any requests from readers to be included on the specialized mailing list of the Crime prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. Inclusion on the mailing list guarantees regular receipt of up-to-date information on the activities of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.